to Questions

Promotion of Languages

1941. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the steps taken for the promotion and development of Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Government have set up the Central Institute of Indian Language, Mysore, to promote and develop Indian languages including Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri. The CIIL has undertaken the following activities for the development of these languages:

Nepali : Pictorial glossary in Nepali published. Nepali-Bengali-Hindi dictionary and Nursery Rhymes under preparation. The script for propagation of Pronounciation Cassettes in Nepali prepared.

Konkani: Pictorial Glossary and Nursery Rhymes in Konkani published. Two training programmes for the Konkani teachers and one workshop-cum-training programme for the preparation of instructional materials for Konkani conducted, besides a workshop for the administrators in the use of Konkani in administration.

Manipuri: Manipuri Phonetic Reader and Nursery Rhymes published. Pictorial Glossary under preparation.

The Government is also implementing a schemefor providing financial assistance to individuals/NGOs for publication of books in Modern Indian languages including the above three languages. A scheme for the purchase of books published in Indian languages and their free distribution is also being implemented.

Accident Rate in IAF

1942. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Accident rate in IAF becoming cause for concern" appearing in the "Asian Age" dated June 30,1997;
- (b) if so, whether the Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Defence Research to analyse comparative aircraft accident data in India and abroad, has submitted its report; and
- (c) if so, the main findings of the report and action the Government have taken or propose to take on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken necessary steps to contain these accidents, and as a result, accident rate has declined as compared to the earlier years. The Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accident constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri,